

AUESF
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8/20/90

Potlatch

Intra Company Memo

Potlatch Corporation

Date: August 20, 1990

To: Norm Linton

From: Mike Fish

Subject: Avery Mitigation

Question: What was the condition of the landing at the time that Potlatch purchased it from the railroad?

The landing is a long and narrow piece of land and was used in several different ways.

The area of the oil contamination was the area of least activity, a kind of overflow work area for the rest of the landing, and to my knowledge, no one knew of the underground pool of contaminants at that time.

The area just downstream of the contaminated area is the area of the camp. There were no known problems in that area and none has been identified there to date. Construction of some of the camp area was completed prior to the purchase and no evidence of the contamination was apparent during the construction of the underground utilities. Again, none has been located there to date.

The third area was the log landing area that was yet further downstream and was the area of the highest activity resulting from Potlatch's operations. No contamination has ever been located in this area. The area was improved by regrading and placing a layer of rock on the surface of the landing prior to its purchase. No evidence of contamination was present at that time.

Question: Are there records of leaks or spillage by the railroad?

I am not aware of any written records of leaks or spillage by the railroad but since the contamination has been discovered, I have talked to long time residents of Avery and past employees of the railroad who have first hand knowledge of the practices and conditions that allowed contamination of the area. Activities that would today be termed a spill were common occurrences.

Question: Is the roundhouse/storage facility located on property that Potlatch now owns?

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That question is best answered by a legal survey of the area as land lines and ownership are vague at best. The roundhouse and storage facility are not one in the same but different items located in different areas and were perhaps connected by a system of pipes. It appears that portions of the roundhouse are on land currently owned by Potlatch and the Federal Highway Administration. The highway right of way clearly separates the roundhouse and the tank site. Ownership of the tank site may be within the highway right of way, split by the boundary of the right of way, or outside of the right of way. The Thierault ownership appears not to include the roundhouse, but may be involved with some of the peripheral equipment (pipes, conduits, etc.). It is apparent that the contamination does lie under some of the Thierault ownership.

Question: Did the contamination originate from an above ground or below ground tank?

There was a large above ground tank used for fueling purposes located at the site that the local residents tell us spilled at various times. It seems quite likely that activities at a roundhouse would require additional tanks but I have no specific knowledge as to their location.

Question: Is the surface of the area contaminated with diesel fuel or other substances?

There is no apparent diesel fuel on the surface but I am not qualified to answer with regard to other substances.

I have included a copy of Figure 1 titled "Site and Exploration Plan" dated June 1989. Portions of the roundhouse are located near MW-3 and existing well number 12. The roundhouse and support facilities were large and covered quite a bit of real estate. Although most of the foundation for the roundhouse has been buried, portions of it are visible at the surface of the site.

MF:jl

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Avery Oil Mitigation

Site and Exploration Plan

